Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

OMB-01 RSR-01 /081 W

----- 031752

R 221010 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6154

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CONFIDENTIAL MANILA 7226

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MY, RP, ID

SUBJECT: TRIPARTITE TALKS ON SABAH

REF: A. MANILA 6389, B. MANILA 7005

- 1. IN CONVERSATION TODAY, FORMER AMBASSADOR AQUINO (REF A) PROFESSED NOT TO BE AWARE OF PUBLIC REFERENCES TO THE TRIPARTITE MEETING ON SABAH IN HONG KONG TWO WEEKS AGO. GIVEN SEEMINGLY UNIFTZM RELUCTANCE AMONG PARTICIPANTS TO DISCUSS THIS MEETING. IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT AP STORY (REF B) HAS NOT APPEARED IN THE CONTROLLED MANILA PRESS.
- 2. AQUINO SAID HE CONSIDERED IT "GOOD NEWS" THAT ALL PARTIES CONTINUE TO KEEP QUIET ABOUT THESE TALKS. IT IS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT A SECOND ROUND IS IN PROSPECT IN JULY. SENATOR ROY, ACCORDING TO AQUINO, IS URGING THAT IT BE HELD IN THE PHILIPPINES, PERHAPS IN BAGUIO (WHICH WE WERE READILY ABLE TO AGREE IS MUCH TOO PUBLIC) OR DAVAO. I SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE UNDERSTANDABLE IF IT PROVED EASIER TO AGREE ON A SITE CONFIDENTIAL

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NEITHER IN PHILIPPINES NOR IN MALAYSIA BUT, SHOULD ROY'S INITIATIVE PROSPER, IT SHOULD NOT BE HARD FOR GOP TO IDENTIFY SOME PRIVATE PLANTATION OR MINING SITE WHERE THE TALKS COULD BE RESUMED WITHOUT PUBLICITY.

3. PELAEZ IS STILL, OR AGAIN, IN MINDANAO, AND AQUINO CONFIRMED OUR IMPRESSION THAT HE WOULD PREFER FOR NOW TO AVOID CONFRONTING U. S. INQUIRIES ABOUT THE TALKS. AQUINO SAID, AS HE HAS PREVIOUSLY INTIMATED (E. G. MEMCON OF JUNE 1 TO EA/ PHL) THAT ONE REASON FOR CAUTION ON PART OF PELAEZ IS THE LIKELIHOOD THAT HE WILL REPLACE GENERAL ROMULO AS FOREIGN SECRETARYIEF LATTER GOES THROUGH WITH PLAN TO RESIGN IN ORDER TO MARRY AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT BETH DAY.

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NNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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CANBERRA HONG KONG JAKARTA KUALA LUMPUR SECSTATE WASHDC

SINGAPORE
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